

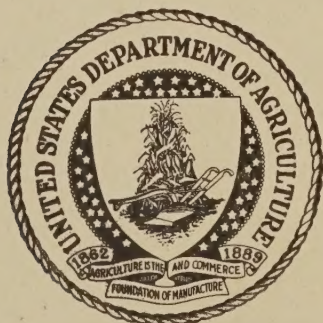
Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve

1.9
Ec73Sf

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
LIBRARY



Reserve
BOOK NUMBER 1.9
Ec73Sf

661444

9
1354
erve
SOME FOREIGN WORKS ON AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS

A tentative list of books which it would be desirable
to have translated into English.*

Oct. 28, 1930.

Aereboe, Friedrich. Agrarpolitik, ein lehrbuch... Berlin, P. Parey,
1928. 619p.

Translated title: Agricultural Policy.

A review signed by A. M. Hannay in Agricultural Economics Literature,
v. 2, no. 9, Nov., 1928, p. 278-280 reads as follows:

"It is the task of 'Agrarpolitik' to indicate methods of improving
the condition of agriculture so that it may be better able to fulfill
its part within the economic entity of the state. It should be the
aim of the lecturer on 'Agrarpolitik' to impart to his students a pro-
found knowledge of the various interrelations and reactions between
agriculture and the other departments of national economic life. In-
deed, all who expect to take part in the political life of their
country, and all citizens who give them that prerogative by their vote,
should have a knowledge of agricultural conditions. With this intro-
duction, the author goes on to suggest some means by which such a task
might be accomplished.

"The book is divided into two main parts. In the first part the
author's aim is to show how the whole science of agricultural economy
is based upon and permeated by problems of farm management...

"The author then ... discusses various agricultural systems and
their dependence on price conditions, laying special stress on in-
tensive farming and on the use of artificial fertilizers. He points
out that the most important factors in the increase of intensive
farming are not increased market prices of agricultural products, but
improved and cheapened means of transportation and lower prices for
agricultural machinery, fertilizer, fodder, and other aids to production.

"An outline of the development of farm labor and wages leads to a
discussion of contracts, including tenancy. The landowner may culti-
vate his land himself or he may employ an administrator, or he may
lease all or part of it. Sometimes he cultivates part, leases part,
and turns part over to an administrator. Various kinds of intermediate
arrangements are also possible. Some of these are described in detail.

*This list was prepared from publications in the Library of the
U. S. Dept. of Agriculture at the request of the Advisory Committee on
Social and Economic Research in Agriculture of the Social Science Research
Council.

The list does not claim to be exhaustive or final. It is hoped
that anyone to whom it is sent who believes that the translation of some
other work or works would be more important will send the name of the
author and title and any other pertinent information to Miss Mary G. Lacy,
Librarian, U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C.

3 3 3 3 3
3 3 3 3 3
3 3 3 3 3
3 3 3 3 3

"The first part of the book concludes with a discussion of net returns and cost of production, and the influence of prices on the profitability of agriculture. The author believes that there is no farm that, in the hands of an able farmer, will not in the course of time yield a net return. In some cases, however, the normal return will not cover the taxes and the amount of indebtedness incurred. The prices of agricultural products and of the means of production determine the limits of the cost of production. Agriculture continually strives after increased production, while prices continually place new limits in its path, or open up new possibilities of development.

"The second part of the book deals with the most important problems of agriculture. An account of the problems of population is followed by a detailed discussion of the question of education and training. Just as all economic problems culminate in the education of the people as a whole, so do all agricultural problems culminate in the education of the farmer...

"The author, however, lays greatest stress on the questions of taxation, the tariff, agricultural credit, and the division of landed property...

"A discussion of conditions of labor in agriculture and of agricultural wages leads to the conclusion that a renewed interest in the land can only be awakened by an increase in agricultural wages which will put them on a level with those of industry, by its being made possible for the industrious laborer to become a farm owner, and by a general improvement of living conditions. The large estates that are badly managed should be divided up and put into the hands of the well-trained and industrious worker.

"The keynotes of the book are education and rationalization along agricultural lines."

Aereboe, Friedrich. Allgemeine landwirtschaftliche betriebslehre. 6. neubearb. Aufl. Berlin, P. Parey, 1923. 697p. (Die bewirtschaftung von Landgütern und grundstücken... I.t.) The section of special interest is part III, Die Betriebsorganisation oder die zweckmässigsten verhältnisse de betriebsmittel, p. 180-588.

Translated title: Principles of farm economics.

A review by A. M. Hannay in Library Supplement, P.A.E. News, no. 24, June 30, 1925, p. 3-4 states:

"Outlining the relationship between political economy and the science of agriculture, the author points out that, while they have certain points in common, the aim of political economy is the attainment of the highest good of all the members of the state, that of agriculture, the establishment of the largest possible number of farms. To the political economist agriculture means the economic activity of all persons engaged in farming, whether as owners, overseers or laborers; to the agriculturist it means the private activity of all independent farmers on large or small farms, owned by themselves or leased.

"The book under consideration deals exclusively with agriculture from the point of view of the individual farmer...

"Chapter 2 deals with the means used by the farmer to attain his goal, the soil, the buildings, tools, machinery, livestock and the human element. The use of the original product or its conversion into something else, as milk into butter, is discussed from a practical and an economic standpoint. Money alone should be recognized as working capital. Stock is not such in itself but only a means by which the working capital may be obtained. The human element is discussed at length from the owner to the unskilled laborer, including administrators, overseers, inspectors, skilled workmen, and specialists in certain lines. Permanent and transient workers, married and unmarried, men, women and children are dealt with, as well as the wages paid to them in money, in kind, in land, by the year, by the hour, by the piece of work, etc.

"The author next ... analyses the principles of organisation of farming enterprises. In dealing with intensive and extensive farming he points out that it is not the question as to whether the farmer should use intensive or extensive methods that is of greatest importance, and it is not any degree of intensity that in itself will insure him success. Success depends above all on the harmonious working together of every phase of his undertaking. The proper handling of the system chosen is much more important than the system itself. The relation of prices to the various kinds of farming enterprises is discussed at length.

"The several phases of the conduct of the business of farming are next dealt with...

"From the discussion of rent and the various forms in which it is paid, the owner passes to the question of the financing of the farm and deals with ready money, sinking funds, debt, installment payments on machinery, etc.

"The training, both practical and scientific of the farm owner or agent is discussed, as well as the necessity for hiring suitable assistants who are specialists in their own line.

"A section devoted to the methods of calculating the net proceeds of the farm in which it is shown that, in reality, the actual return in cash is a very imperfect measure of the real profits, is followed by a survey of the most important fundamental principles underlying the theory of intensive farming, and a table proving that it is primarily increasing prices of agricultural products that necessitate increased intensity of production."

Aereboe, Friedrich. Die beurteilung von landgütern und grundstücken. Ein lehrbuch für landwirte, volkswirte, kataster- und steuerbeamte, gebäude- taxatoren, angestellte landlicher kreditanstalten usw... 2 aufl. 3 unveränderter abdruck ... Berlin, P. Parey, 1924. 535p.
Translated title: Valuation of farms.

"This is the second edition of a book written in 1912. It discusses taxation of large farms and independent pieces of land, livestock, agricultural products, buildings and farming accessories

of all kinds, and gives a short discussion of property and inheritance taxes and an argument for the reform of the public tax system and the establishment and organization of public tax offices such as are provided for in Prussia by the law of June 8, 1918." - Library Supplement, B. A. E. News. no. 22, April 28, 1925, p. 9.

Beckmann, Fritz. Die internationale agrare arbeitsteilung Europas. Jena. 1926. 24p. (Kiel. Universität. Institut für weltwirtschaft und seeverkehr. Wissenschaftliches klub Kießer vorträge ... no. 16.)
Translated title: International division of labor for agriculture.
A review signed A. M. Hannay in Agricultural Economics Literature, v. 1, no. 3, Mar., 1927, p. 53-54 states:

"The author's thesis is that an international division of labor in agriculture, such as he believes existed in Europe before the war, is a desirable, though, he admits, not a probable concomitant of agricultural development today, particularly from the point of view of Germany.

"He paints a bright picture of pre-war conditions in which he characterizes Germany as the bridge between the barley-producing Russia and the rye-consuming countries of Northern Europe. Russia produced in very large quantities a barley for fodder which was unsurpassed in quality and of a very moderate price, and which was invaluable for the livestock-raising countries such as Denmark and Holland. Germany imported Russia's barley and exported the large quantities of rye which she herself produced.

"Russia, in order to pay her debts, was obliged to export at any price. The German farmer, wishing to share in the increased prosperity brought about as the result of industrial activity, turned his attention to the production of livestock and animal products. And so Russia and Germany, the most important agricultural countries in Europe, played into each other's hands to such a degree that they might almost be looked upon as one large agricultural community with a carefully articulated system of division of labor...

"Since the war nationalism has become rampant in Europe. The new countries have been eager to be self supporting. No substitute has been found for the Russian barley or for the Slavic itinerant laborer. Commercial treaties are more political than economic in their content and aim...

"For Germany livestock-raising and its accompanying industries of the production of dairy and animal products seem to be the most profitable, because they require little outlay and bring quick returns. She must import raw materials and export manufactured products. More than ever today is it true, according to the author, that the future of German agriculture depends upon a finely organized international division of labor."

Brinkmann, Theodor. Die oekonomie des landwirtschaftlichen betriebes. (In Grundriss der sozial-ökonomik. VII. Abteilung. Land-und forstwirtschaftliche produktion. Versicherungswesen. (Tübingen, J.C.B. Mohr, 1922. 339p.) p. 27-124)

Translated title: Agricultural economics.

We have been told that Dr. Benedict of Brookings, South Dakota, is working on a translation of this book.

It is briefly described in Library Supplement, B.A.E. News, no. 37, Nov. 30, 1926, p. 3, as follows:

"The author argues that the law of diminishing returns as applied to the land is the fundamental law of agriculture. Intensive cultivation of the soil must not go beyond certain limits if the highest possible return is to be obtained. The amount of capital and labor employed must be taken into account in the calculation of the net profit. Besides there are four outstanding factors which may make or mar the success of the agricultural enterprise. They are the position of the farm with respect to markets, the natural conditions of climate and soil, the degree of development of general economic conditions, and the personality and skill of the agriculturist."

Einaudi, Luigi. La terra e l'imposta. (In Annali di economia, v. 1, no. 1, Nov., 1924, p. 37-215)

Translated title: The land and taxation.

A note in Agricultural Economics Literature, v. 2, no. 2, Feb., 1928, p. 33, states:

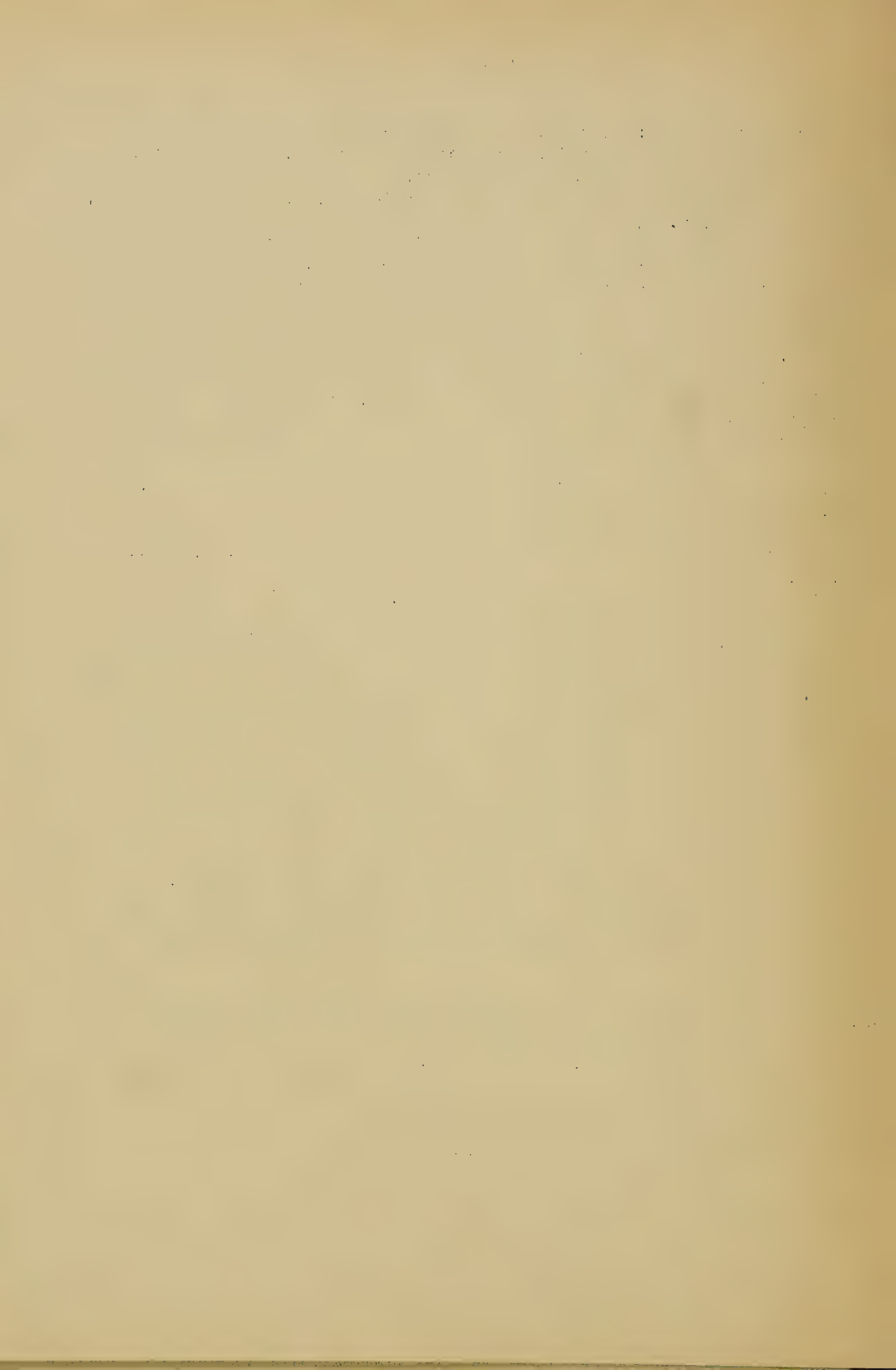
"A full review of this in English by C. Longobardi and Asher Hobson is available in the Bureau library.

"In discussing land taxation from the historical point of view the author describes the universal census of the Duchy of Milan of 1718 which has been the basis for all later taxation of land in Italy. That census mapped all property and evaluated it upon its productive capacity. Two fundamental ideas of Italian taxation having their origin in the Milanese census are (1) Taxable property is the gross product of the soil minus total expenses, and (2) The value of the property shall be considered by local standards so that the product due to extraordinary skill shall not be taxed. The theoretical problem is discussed in 2 chapters as follows: 1) Analysis of the revenue derived from land, and 2) The choice of the object for taxation. An analysis of the tax on agrarian returns is made, explaining the equation given for calculating taxable revenue. The difference between the method of ascertaining taxable property by declarations and by cadaster is discussed and the merits of the cadaster system are explained."

Laur, Ernst. Einführung in die wirtschafstslehre des landbaus unter besonderer berücksichtigung der landarbeitslehre. 2. neuarb. aufl. Berlin, P. Parey, 1930. 346p.

Translated title: Introduction to the economics of agriculture with special attention to agricultural labor.

A review in Agricultural Economics Literature, v. 4, no. 8, Oct., 1930, p. 393-395 signed by Walter J. Roth states:



"Dr. Laur considers six major subject-matter fields in his presentation. These are as follows: the Historical Evolution, Systems and Methods, Factors in Agriculture, Principles of Organization and Operation, Farming Type, and Farm Accounting and Farm Returns. To these he apportions the space in his treatise respectively as follows: 11 per cent, 3 per cent, 28 per cent, 7 per cent, 30 per cent, 21 per cent...

"Taken as a whole Dr. Laur's 'Introduction to the Economics of Agriculture' should rank very well among similar texts published elsewhere. It is not a treatise on Economic Theory or Production Economics as we know these subjects and cannot be compared directly with such treatises. As an introduction to the field which it portrays, as a book for reading in the economics of agriculture, it offers a delightfully interesting and definitely worth-while contribution to the literature which should appeal to the more mature ^{mind} as well as to the beginner who seeks to stray outside his own language."

Ritter, Kurt. Landwirtschaftliche entwicklungstendenzen in der welt. Tübingen, J.C.B. Mohr [1929] p. 297-359.

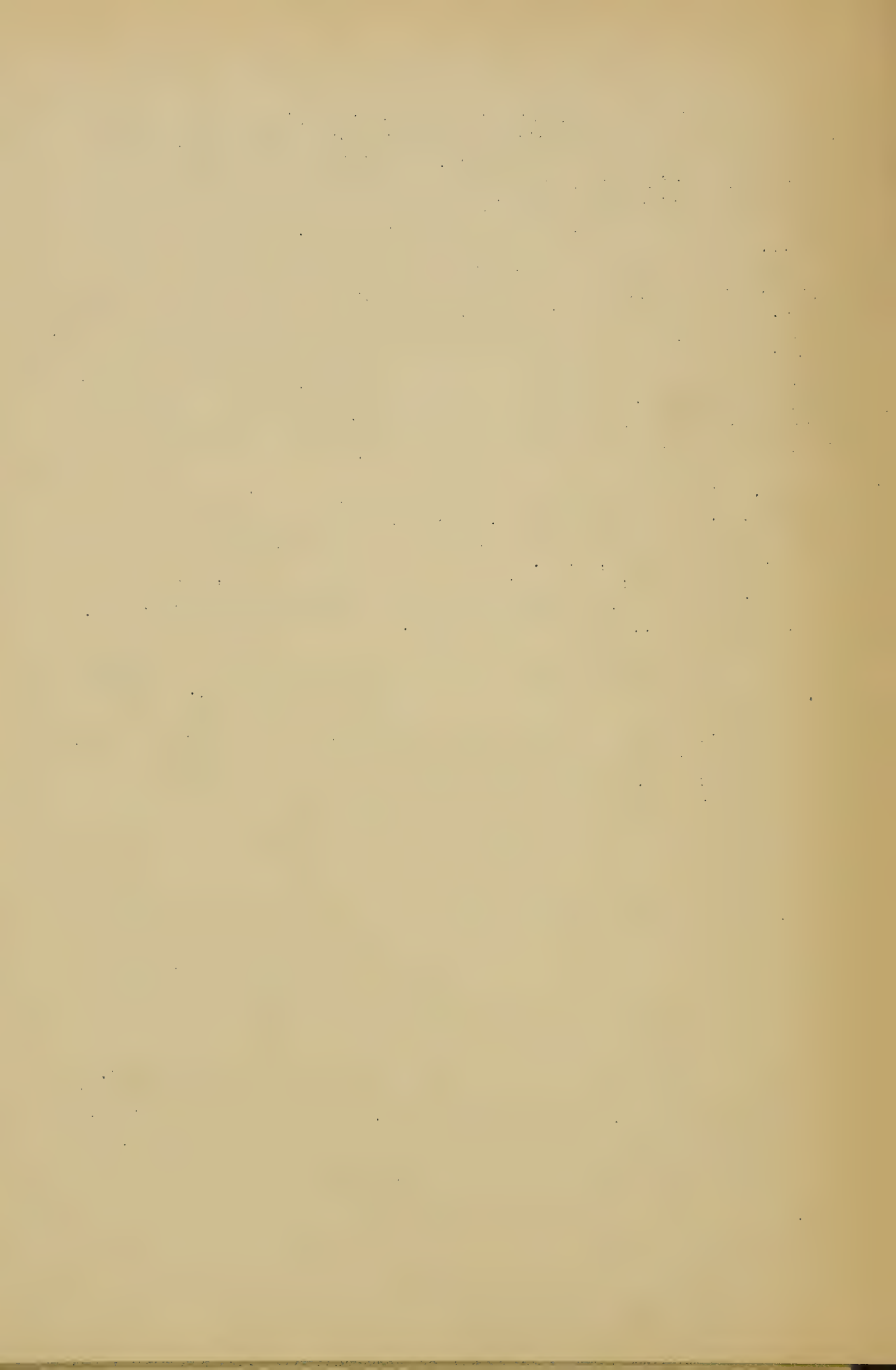
Separat-abdruck aus Zeitschrift für die gesamte Staatswissenschaft. bd. 87, hft. 2, Sept., 1929.

Translated title: Trend of agricultural development in the world.

A review signed A. M. Hannay in Agricultural Economics Literature, v. 3, no. 10, Dec., 1929, p. 395 states:

"The author does not underrate the difficulty of even a sketchy account of the trend of agricultural development throughout the world, realizing, as he does, that it should be based not only on knowledge of the agricultural literature of the various countries but also on a first-hand knowledge of the mentality of the farmer. Two kinds of influences must be taken into account, those that are the immediate outcome of the world war and which, though by no means of a transitory nature, are finally limited by time, and those which are the result of the general economic development of nations and which are the expression of old or new permanent factors. The latter are more elusive and more important than the former.

"A short review of the various changes in agricultural production is given, and the still innumerable possibilities for revolutionizing agriculture in its practical aspects are pointed out. The fight against the effects of the law of diminishing returns is being waged with all the weapons procurable. It has received a new impetus from the passing of the land, in all the important agricultural countries of the world to the ownership of the man who cultivates it. The far-reaching economic results of this change cannot be completely understood until the farmer's mental adjustment to it has been completed. The lowering of the barriers between the agricultural and the industrial countries, the tremendous market expansion, the cult of rationalization, and the powerful influence of capitalism have opened up to agriculture hitherto unforeseen possibilities of development, and have finally threatened over-production beyond the market limits.



"Even without the war, the author feels that there would have been a period of crisis. The decreased purchasing power of Europe and other unfortunate effects of the world war are contributing causes, no doubt, but the main emphasis, he feels, should be placed on the change in the relation of supply to demand, called by some over-production, and by others under-consumption. For the countries that figure in international trade today the satiation point has been reached. But there are still many countries in South America and in the Near and Far East where a market can be found for many years to come for the surplus agricultural products of the exporting countries. After that ~~who~~ knows? That is a question about which as little is known as about the duration of the power of capitalism."

Sering, Max. Agrarkrisen und agrarzölle. Berlin und Leipzig, W. de Gruyter & co., 1925. 108p.

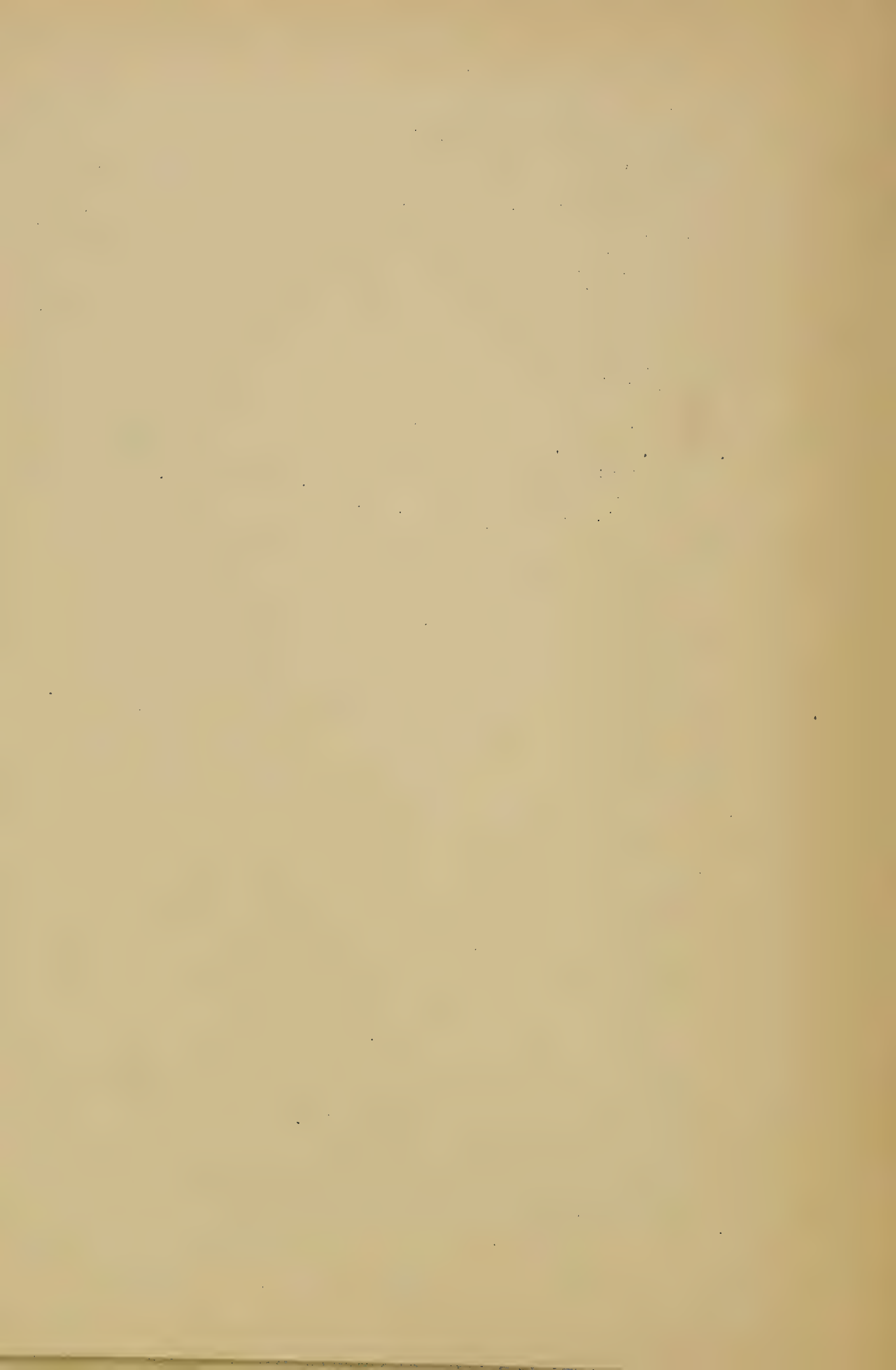
Translated title: Agricultural crises and agricultural ~~tariffs~~ ^{duties}.

A review in Library Supplement, B.A.E. News, no. 29, Jan. 26, 1926, p. 1-3, signed by A. M. Hannay states:

"This study of agrarian crises and protection is based upon the assumption that a tariff on the necessities of life is only justified when it is necessary to assist agriculture to weather a crisis occasioned by foreign competition. Professor Sering defines 'Agrar-krisis' as a price upheaval resulting in a relation of income to expenditure which threatens many farmers with loss of house and land or even whole communities with depopulation, and he gives a historical summary of such crises in Germany in an endeavor to formulate a theory of agrarian crises, which differ from the ordinary economic crisis...

"After proving by means of statistics that the price crisis after the war was not caused by an overstocked market, the author points out that its origin must be sought in the diminished purchasing power of the people. Germany, before the war the leading industrial country of Europe, with her supplies of raw materials cut off, and shut out from large industrial regions in Lorraine, Upper Silesia and the Saar, saw her export trade dwindle to half of what it was before the war. Deflation alone was not responsible. International indebtedness and the treaty of Versailles increased cost prices and diminished the competitive power of European and particularly of Germany industry, and the result was intensified by a policy of extreme industrial protection on the part of agricultural export countries. The price of agricultural products was made to correspond to the purchasing power of the consumer irrespective of the cost of production. Hence the overseas export countries and Germany suffered most...

"The first necessity is a reform of taxation and credit which the author does not discuss. Failing that, he states that there must either be abolition of the sales tax on necessities, or at least on bread grain, or the introduction of countervailing duties. The sales tax is iniquitous but unavoidable according to the financial authorities. Hence Germany needs a tariff with duties on agricultural products to protect her against the wave of protectionism that has spread over the world. But it would be sufficient to have duties that could be put



into force in case of a prevalence of exceptionally high prices. They would be little or no burden to the consumer because in times of plentiful harvest the foreign countries would have to pay the duty in whole or in part. Germany, with her excessive industrial population, is dependent upon other countries for much of her foodstuffs. Hence she must increase her export of manufactured articles, which presupposes lower prices at home and lower production costs. Free trade would, therefore, seem to be a sound economic policy for Germany, but it must be a free trade armed for defence. And yet, as a matter of fact, she is in process of becoming a country with a high industrial protective tariff.

"Germany can not shut herself off from the world market without prejudice to her interests in general and her agricultural interests in particular. The author recommends a program of scientific intensive farming, the cultivation especially of root crops, the development of cattle raising and dairy farming, and duty-free importation of fodder and fertilizer."

Sering, Max. Internationale preisbewegung und lage der landwirtschaft in den aussertropischen Ländern. (In Berichte über landwirtschaft. neue folge. Sonderheft no. 11. 1929. 230p. pub. by Reichsministerium für ernährung und landwirtschaft)

Translated title: The international price movement and the condition of agriculture in non-tropical countries.

A review of this work by Joseph S. Davis in the Quarterly journal of economics, v. 44, no. 1, Nov., 1929, p. 151 states:

"Sering's central thesis is that 'broad movements of agricultural prices are determined on the one hand by the tempo of the opening up of new agricultural areas, and on the other by historical events which change the economic position of industrial states and either increase or decrease their purchasing power.' He finds that prices of agricultural staples are, relatively, abnormally low. The root cause of this, in his judgment, is not overproduction but underconsumption, traceable to the impoverishment of Europe, notably in Germany. Contributing factors are the reduction in productivity in eastern Europe, the break-up of central Europe, the extreme protectionism of agricultural exporting countries, and the overburdening of Europe with war burdens and foreign debts. Sering's emphasis on the points named is needed, yet it needs supplementing in turn; and it may be questioned whether anyone has yet demonstrated what is a 'normal' basis for prices of agricultural products."

